

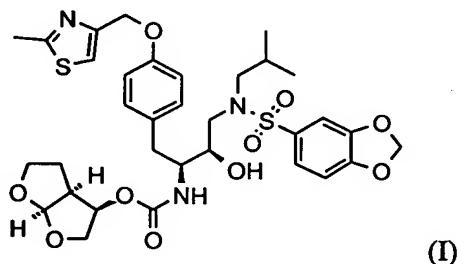
**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

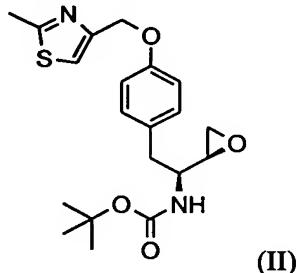
**Claims**

1. (originally presented) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I)

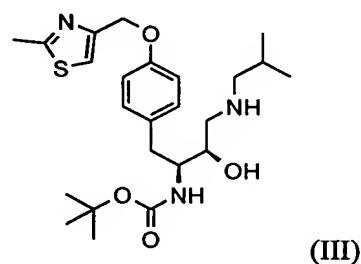


comprising :

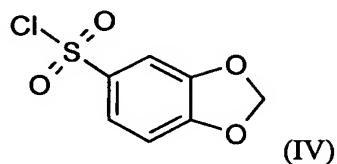
(a) treating a compound of formula (II)



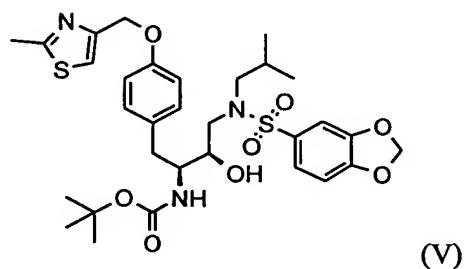
with excess isobutylamine in an alcohol-containing solvent to form a compound of formula (III)



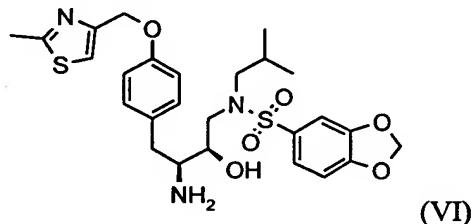
(b) treating a compound of formula (III) with a compound of formula (IV)



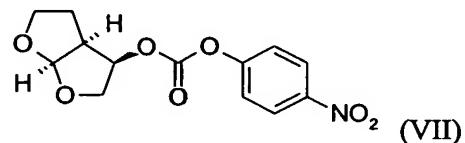
in the presence of an aqueous base to form a compound of formula (V)



(c) deprotecting a compound of formula (V) to form a compound of formula (VI)



(d) coupling a compound of formula (VI) with a compound of formula (VII)

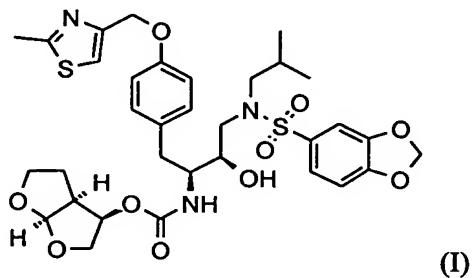


to yield a compound of formula (I).

2. (originally presented) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) comprising steps (a), (b), (c) and (d) according to claim 1 wherein steps (a) and (b) are

combined in a one-pot reaction to yield a compound of formula (V) which is isolated and in which steps (c) and (d) are combined in a one-pot reaction to yield a compound of formula (I).

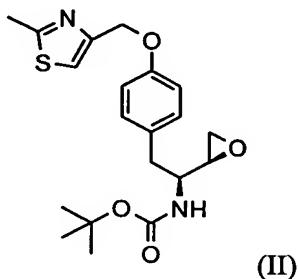
3. (originally presented) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I)



(I)

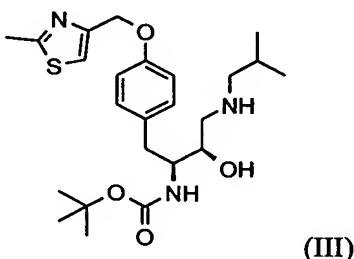
comprising :

(a) treating a compound of formula (II)



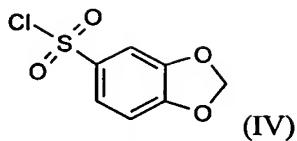
(II)

with excess isobutylamine in an alcohol-containing solvent to form a compound of formula (III);

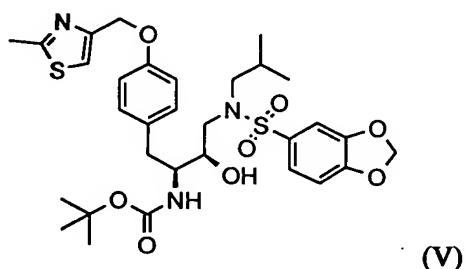


(III)

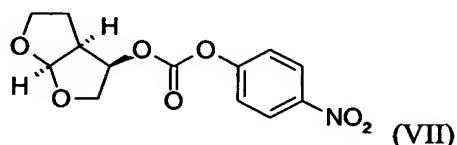
(b) treating a compound of formula (III) with a compound of formula (IV)



in the presence of an aqueous base to form a compound of formula (V)

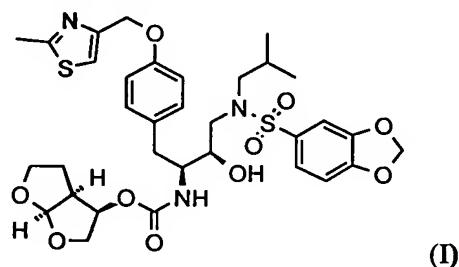


(c) deprotecting a compound of formula (V) and coupling with a compound of formula (VII)



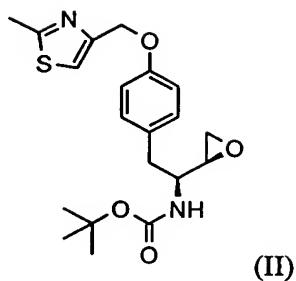
to form a compound of formula (I).

4. (originally presented) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I)

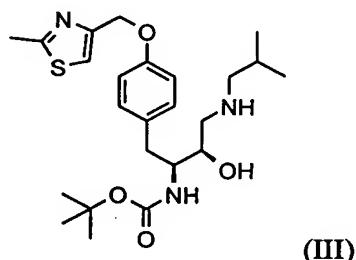


comprising:

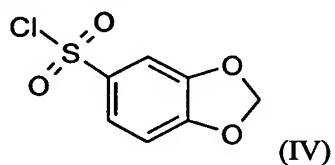
**(a) treating a compound of formula (II)**



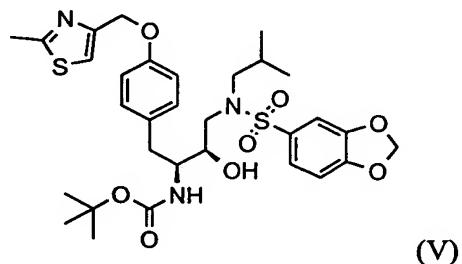
with excess isobutylamine in an alcohol-containing solvent to form a compound of formula (III)



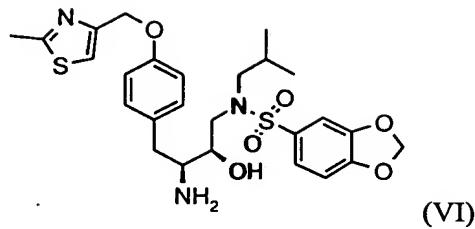
(b) treating a compound of formula (III) with a compound of formula (IV)



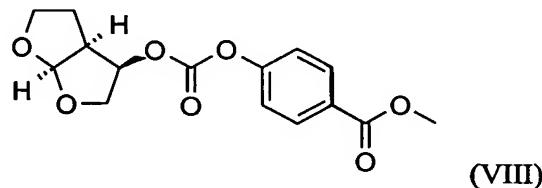
in the presence of an aqueous base to form a compound of formula (V)



(c) deprotecting a compound of formula (V) to form a compound of formula (VI)



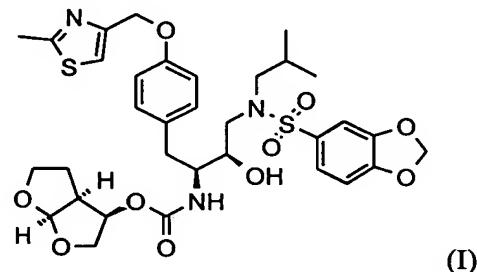
(d) coupling a compound of formula (VI) with a compound of formula (VIII)



to yield a compound of formula (I).

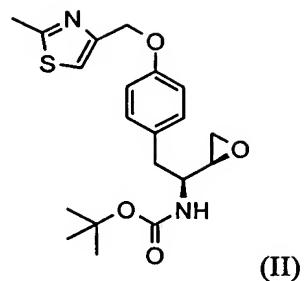
5. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) comprising steps (a), (b), (c) and (d) according to claim 4 wherein steps (a) and (b) are combined in a one-pot reaction to yield a compound of formula (V) which is isolated and in which steps (c) and (d) are combined in a one-pot reaction to yield a compound of formula (I).

6. (originally presented) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I)

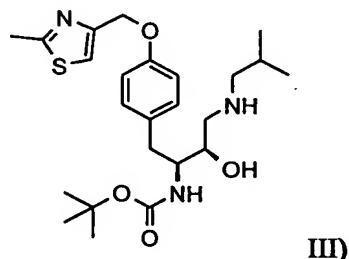


comprising :

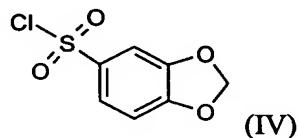
(a) treating a compound of formula (II)



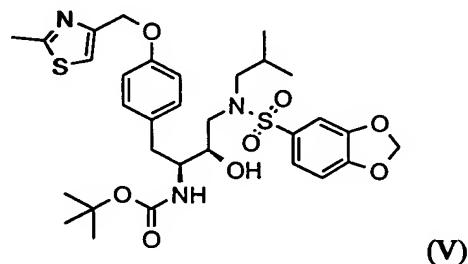
with excess isobutylamine in an alcohol-containing solvent to form a compound of formula (III)



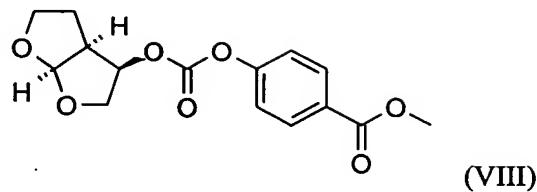
(b) treating a compound of formula (III) with a compound of formula (IV)



in the presence of an aqueous base to form a compound of formula (V)



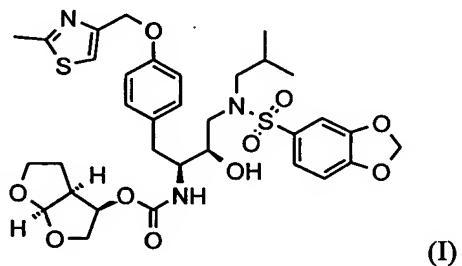
(c) deprotecting a compound of formula (V) and coupling with a compound of formula (VIII)



(VIII)

to form a compound of formula (I).

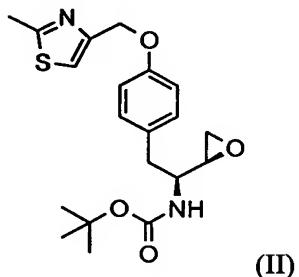
7. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I)



(I)

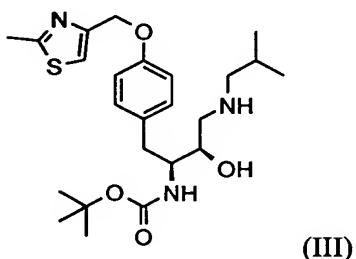
comprising :

(a) treating a compound of formula (II)



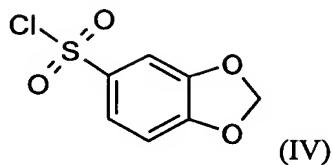
(II)

with excess isobutylamine in an alcohol-containing solvent to form a compound of formula (III)

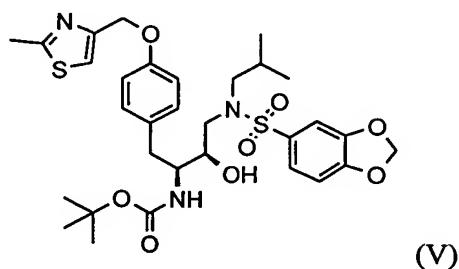


(III)

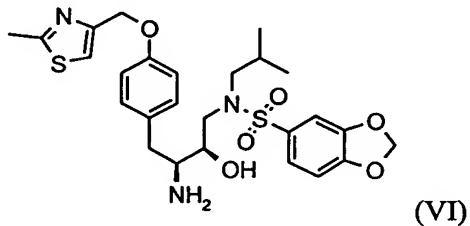
(b) treating a compound of formula (III) with a compound of formula (IV)



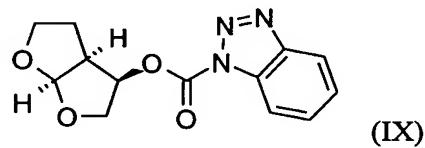
in the presence of an aqueous base to form a compound of formula (V)



(c) deprotecting a compound of formula (V) to form a compound of formula (VI)



(e) (d) coupling a compound of formula (VI) with a compound of formula (IX)

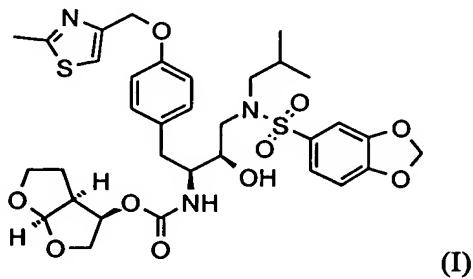


to yield a compound of formula (I).

10. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) comprising steps (a), (b), (c) and (d) according to ~~claim 8~~ claim 7 wherein steps (a) and (b)

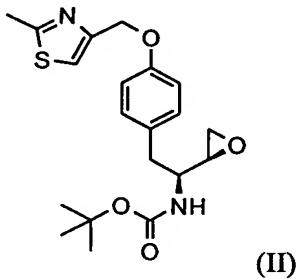
are combined in a one-pot reaction to yield a compound of formula (V) which is isolated and in which steps (c) and (d) are combined in a one-pot reaction to yield a compound of formula (I).

11. (originally presented) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I)

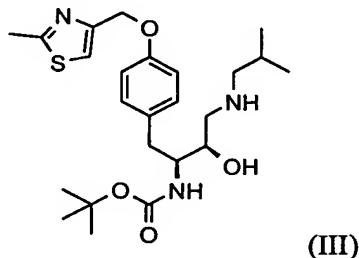


comprising :

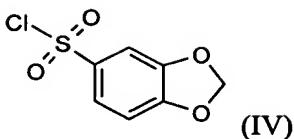
(a) treating a compound of formula (II)



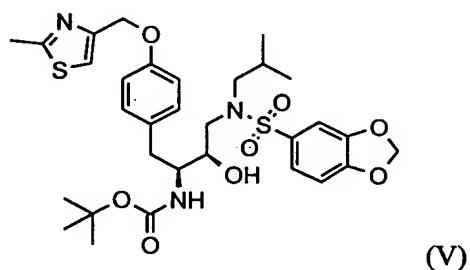
with excess isobutylamine in an alcohol-containing solvent to form a compound of formula (III)



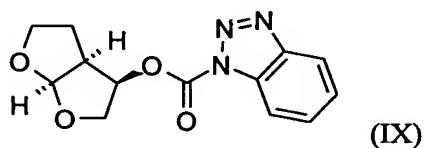
(b) treating a compound of formula (III) with a compound of formula (IV)



in the presence of an aqueous base to form a compound of formula (V)



(c) deprotecting a compound of formula (V) and coupling with a compound of formula (IX)



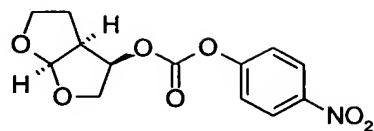
to form a compound of formula (I).

12. (currently amended) A process according to ~~any of claims 1–11~~ claim 7 wherein the alcohol-containing solvent is acetonitrile-methanol.

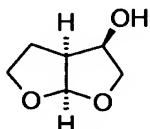
13. (currently amended) A process according to ~~any of claims 1–11~~ claim 7 wherein the aqueous base is sodium bicarbonate.

14. (currently amended) A process according to ~~any of claims 1–11~~ claim 4 wherein step (b) is performed in the presence of non-aqueous base.

15. (originally presented) A process for the preparation of (3*R*,3*aS*,6*aR*)-hexahydrofuro[2,3-*b*]furan-3-yl 4-nitrophenyl carbonate of the formula

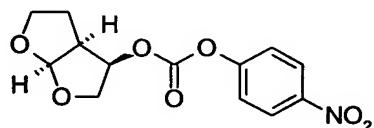


comprising reacting (3*S*,3*a**R*,6*a**S*)-hexahydrofuro[2,3-*b*]furan-3-ol) of the formula



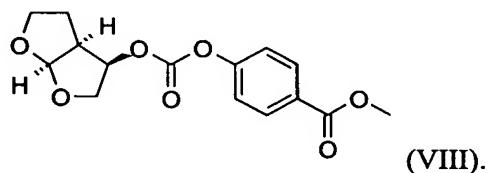
with 4-nitrophenyl chloroformate in a suitable solvent to form (3*R*,3*a**S*,6*a**R*)-hexahydrofuro[2,3-*b*]furan-3-yl 4-nitrophenyl carbonate.

16. (originally presented) (3*R*,3*a**S*,6*a**R*)-hexahydrofuro[2,3-*b*]furan-3-yl 4-nitrophenyl carbonate of the formula

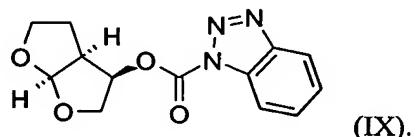


made by the process according to claim 15.

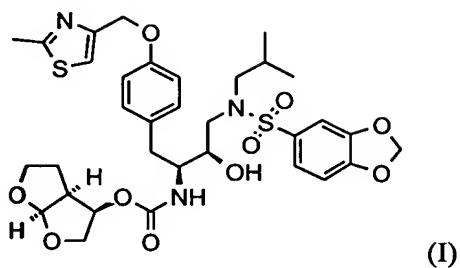
17. (originally presented) A compound of formula (VIII)



18. (originally presented) A compound of formula (IX)

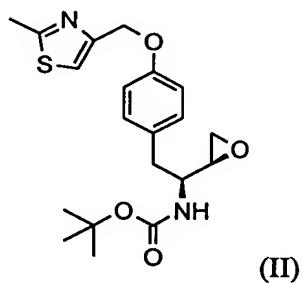


19. (new) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I)

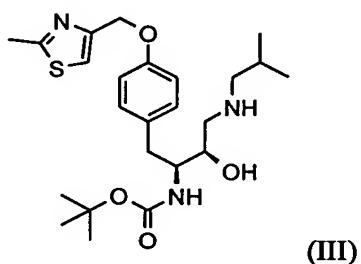


comprising :

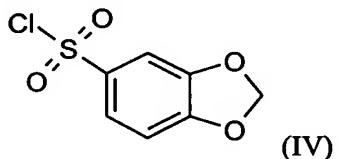
(a) treating a compound of formula (II)



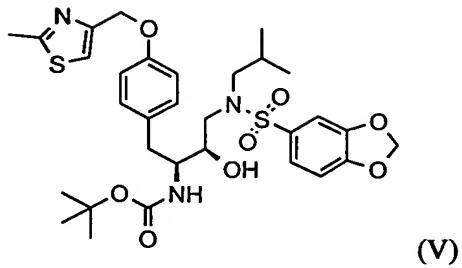
with excess isobutylamine in an alcohol-containing solvent to form a compound of formula (III)



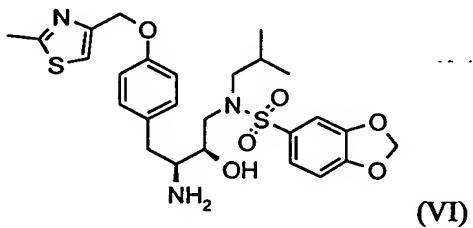
(b) treating a compound of formula (III) with a compound of formula (IV)



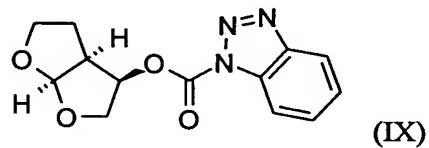
in the presence of non- aqueous base to form a compound of formula (V)



(c) deprotecting a compound of formula (V) to form a compound of formula (VI)



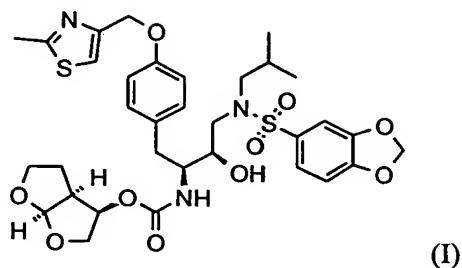
(d) coupling a compound of formula (VI) with a compound of formula (IX)



to yield a compound of formula (I).

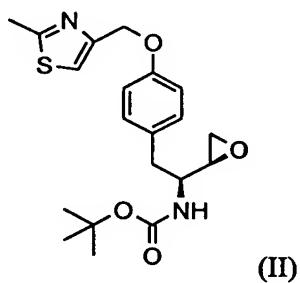
20. (new) A process according to claim 19 wherein the non-aqueous base is N-methylmorpholine.

21. (new) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I)

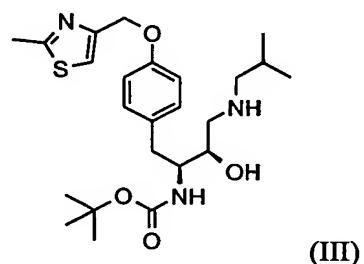


comprising :

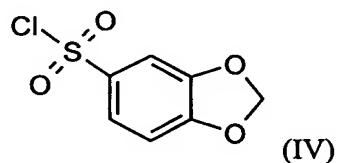
(a) treating a compound of formula (II)



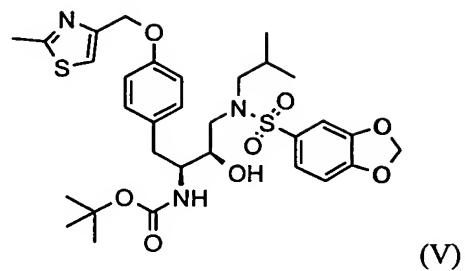
with excess isobutylamine in an alcohol-containing solvent to form a compound of formula (III)



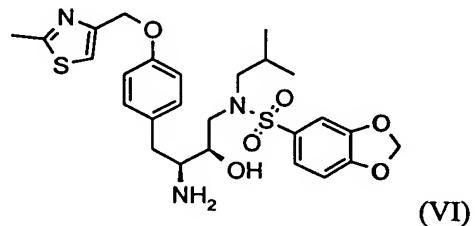
(b) treating a compound of formula (III) with a compound of formula (IV)



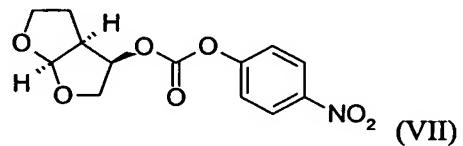
in the presence of a non- aqueous base to form a compound of formula (V)



(c) deprotecting a compound of formula (V) to form a compound of formula (VI)



(d) coupling a compound of formula (VI) with a compound of formula (VII)



to yield a compound of formula (I).

22. (new) A process according to claim 20 wherein the non-aqueous base is N-methylmorpholine.

23. (new) A process according to claim 1 wherein the alcohol-containing solvent is acetonitrile-methanol.

24. (new) A process according to claim 1 wherein the aqueous base is sodium bicarbonate.

**Amendments in the Abstract:**

The abstract is submitted herewith on a separate sheet of paper as required by U.S. practice.

Attachment: Replacement sheet